(b) whether all the facilities are being provided to them by Government;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government propose to set up new Army Hospitals with all facilities in the State in near future; and

(e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) In Gujarat Military Hospitals are located at Ahmedabad, Baroda, Bhuj, Dharendhera and Jamnagar.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and e) There is at present neither any requirement nor any proposal to establish any new Military Hospitals in Gujarat State.

Delay in CCA and missile development projects

2349. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Project has been much delayed and India's Integrated Guided Missile Development (IGMDP) is also much behind the schedule;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are proposing a tie-up with some foreign companies in this field;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when Government expect the first roll-out of LCA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) There has been some delay in LCA programme me due to the following reasons:—

(i) Technology gaps arising from absence of a major aircraft development programme in the period 1960—80.

(ii) Inadequate infrastructure.

(iii) Delays due to export clearance procedures in procurement of items from abroad.

(iv) Revision of development strategy with emphasis on higher indigenous content due to resource crunch.

The IGMDP comprising of five projects was sanctioned in 1983 with overall Probable Date of Completion (PDC) of 12 years. PRITHVI AND TRISHUL missiles will enter production within this time frame. Development of AKASH and NAG missiles will be completed by 1995-96 after which these missiles will undergo usor trials and production. Technology Demonstration project AGNI has been completed after successful flight trials. There has been marginal delay due to export embargoes on certain critical components/materials, by western countries under Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), which have been now developed indigenously.

(c) and (d) Preliminary discussions with three foreign aerospace companies are in progress for co-production of LCA. No concrete offers have yet emerged. Any proposal which may emerge from these discussions would be considered if it is useful in producing global cost effective systems. However, there is no proposal for any tie-up with foreign companies for IGMDP.

(e) The first technology demonstrator LCA is likely to roll-out in February 1995, leading to first LCA flight in June 1996. When deployed in 2003, the LCA will be most cost-effective state-of-the-art aircraft of its class.